

Rocky Hill Board of Health – Minutes of the Meeting on October 14, 2008

Location: Borough Hall

Members present: Lisbeth Haines, M.D. (presiding); Susan Fisher, V.M.D.; Mary Germain, Ed.D., APRN-BC, FNAP; Beverly Poelstra, M.D.; Margaret Querec, M.S.N, R.N.

Present: Stephen Papenberg, Health Officer.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 pm, prior notification having been given in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law, Chapter 231

Review and Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of September 9, 2008 were reviewed. They were approved by vote on a motion made by Dr. Germain and seconded by Dr. Poelstra.

Report of the Health Officer

- Mr. Papenberg reported on the meeting of PHACE (Public Health Association Collaborative Effort) Mercer County on September 24th. The meeting and participants represented a broad scope of concerns and was well attended. Among the topics discussed were the best practices gleaned from the many CHIPS plans.
- Mr. Papenberg has been appointed to a committee charged with a comprehensive assessment of the state public health system.
- The possible consolidation of the South Brunswick Department of Health with that of Middlesex County, a step that would affect the current services to Rocky Hill, is still undecided but will be resolved by November 5th. Rocky Hill needs to explore its options in the meantime. Mr. Papenberg discussed possibilities including consolidation or contracts with Millstone, Franklin Township and Somerset County. He encouraged us to consider a contract with Somerset County, which he felt would serve our needs well and estimated it would cost us far less than our current contract, thereby leaving money which could be used to contract for additional services such as a local flu clinic in or near Rocky Hill.

Old Business

- Dr. Poelstra reported on the Municipal Alliance meeting which she had recently attended. Efforts to combat and prevent drug addiction were discussed. Plans are proceeding for a “family night” on March 3, 2008. The concept is to encourage families to have dinner together by asking teachers and extra-curricular programs to avoid assigning homework or scheduling events for that evening.
- The issue of the uncovered sandbox located on municipal property and owned by the Rocky Hill Cooperative Nursery was discussed again. Although there is a sign near it requesting users to cover it before leaving, this is usually not done. Dr. Haines brought up the fact that while the incidence of parasitic infestation in children (which could result from exposure to microscopic eggs in the sand from animal feces) was very low the potential outcomes were very serious. Dr. Germain had researched several articles on the subject that discussed risks of roundworms (*Toxocara* of cats and *Bayliascaris* of raccoons), *Toxoplasma* and hookworms. Dr. Fisher expressed the opinion that regardless of the low risk we would be remiss not to take steps to prevent it. It was suggested by Mr. Papenberg that we meet with the Board of the Nursery School for the purpose of educating them to the risks and urging them to remedy the

situation. Dr. Germain proposed that the Board of Health could consider paying for the cost of a simple homemade cover. It was agreed that Dr. Haines and Dr. Fisher would try to arrange a meeting with the Nursery School's board of directors.

New Business

Dr. Haines has received a copy of the Somerset County DOH Environmental Health Assessment Plan.

Follow-up on BOH Plan for 2007-2008

- Communication Update – Dr. Fisher reported on the BOH Website. While the server's analysis of traffic shows an average of 15 new visitors a day, a closer look at these suggests that many may not be by actual users of the website but more likely inadvertent searchers from outside of our town. Unfortunately, very few people link from the main Rocky Hill Website, where the link is somewhat buried. It was agreed that the upcoming Pancake Breakfast on October 19th would be an opportunity to raise awareness of the existence of the site. Drs. Poelstra, Germain and Fisher agreed to prepare a display table for the purpose.
- Dr. Haines has not heard any news on the pet survey but, in any case, it is in the hands of the Mayor and Borough Council.
- Environmental Concerns – The following were briefly discussed: Radon, Lead paint, Firearms. The discussion reiterated that of the last meeting. See the minutes of September 9, 2008.
- Preparedness
 - Van Horne Park Signs – Bill Tanner has prepared a map with mileage markers and will give it to the rescue squad.

The next meeting will be on November 11, 2008 at 4:30P.M.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 P.M. following a motion by Peggy Querec and seconded by Beverly Poelstra.

Submitted by Susan Fisher